

EUROPEAN PRESS COMMENT.

Thousands Of Englishmen Offering To Volunteer Here.

AT NEW YORK CONSULATE.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—The German press and people are jubilant over the news from South Africa, and everywhere in the streets people greet each other and offer congratulations. Among the press comments is that of Kreuze Zeitung, which says:

Thus the fighting power of the third column is destroyed and the campaign against the Boers is disastrously ended. What, however, means more, is that England's decadence, long ago apparent to far-sighted statesmen, has thus become visible to the whole world.

Rome, Dec. 19.—General Buller's reverse produced a profound impression in all circles here, where it is regarded as most serious for the military prestige of England. The afternoon papers devote long articles to the subject.

London, Dec. 19.—Never within the range of the longest memory, has Great Britain met with three successive military reverses in a single week and hence it is not surprising that notes of anxiety should be heard amid the general chorus of press expressions or grim philosophy and resignation.

New York, Dec. 19.—Many thousands of loyal Britons have been calling at the British consulate in this city in the last few days offering their services to their mother country in her struggle with the Boers. Sir Percy Sanderson, the British consul general, said that since the war broke out he had received many thousands of applications from fellow-countrymen in this city who were ready and willing to enlist and go to the front. Individuals and societies had come to the consular office daily, he said, tendering their services.

Mrs. Peter Sells' Charges.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 19.—Mrs. Mary A. Sells, wife of Peter Sells, part owner of the Sell-Forpaugh shows, instituted an action in the common pleas court to invalidate two deeds which conveyed to her husband, Columbus real estate, valued at between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Mrs. Sells, against whom an action for divorce is pending, claims that her signature to the deeds was secured by fraud and that the entire transaction was grossly misrepresented to her.

Famine In Persia.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Minister Bowen, in Persia, informs the state department that great distress prevails in Persia, in consequence of the high price of bread. He says the situation is growing worse every day and that the prospects are that the poor will be face to face with starvation during the entire winter. American missionaries cannot obtain bread enough for their servants, or for the schools and hospitals under their care.

Root Recommends Commutation.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary Root has recommended commutation of the death sentences imposed by court-martial upon Corporal Damhofer and two other soldiers of the Washington volunteer regiment, who were convicted of assaulting Filipino women. The commutation recommended is to imprisonment for twenty years.

General Buller's Losses.

London, Dec. 19.—General Buller reports to the war office that his losses in the late engagement were: Killed, 82; wounded, 667; missing, 348; total, 1,097.

New Work for 5,000 Men.

New York, Dec. 19.—The Le Maire Optical company with capital of \$1,000,000 will establish two factories in the United States, which, it is expected, will give employment to 5,000 men. One establishment will be at Franklin Park, Ill., and the second at a point in Connecticut. Machinery valued at \$500,000 will be imported for the plants. The company which has factories in England and France, is entering the United States because of the heavy duties on its goods ranging from 60 to 75 per cent.

Pursuing The Remnants.

"Manila, Dec. 18.—Young, at Banqui, Northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnants of the insurgents, who have twenty-three American prisoners in their possession. Country exceedingly rough. Our men without shoes, still persistently pursuing. Few Spanish prisoners now in hands of insurgents, probably 1,000, mostly in south. Expect to effect their release in a few days."

Berlin Is Very Cold.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—Severe cold weather and snowstorms have prevailed throughout Germany for a week and this has produced considerable suffering. From all the larger cities there are reports to that effect and there have been deaths due to exposure. In Berlin alone there were eight deaths from exposure during the last four days. The temperature was lower than for years past. At Koenigsberg it was 33 deg. below zero, in Berlin 15 deg. below, and at Breslau 23 deg. below.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

What Is Being Done In The Fifty-Sixth Congress.

NINTH DAY.
Senator Pettigrew's resolution asking for information as to whether the flag of the Philippine republic had ever been saluted by an American force in the Philippines, came up. Senator Chandler moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Senator Chandler said that every word of the resolution and speeches made upon it would be cabled to Manila. Senator Pettigrew called for the eyes and noses on the motion to lay on the table. The vote resulted 41 yeas and 40 nays.

The senate agreed to the house resolution for a Christmas holiday adjournment on the 29th of December until the 3rd of January.

The house was well high cheered on account of the general observance of the day, which measures the close of a century since the death of George Washington. Some minor work was done by consent, upon matters concerning which there was no opposition. The financial bill was then the subject of speeches, made to a nearly empty house. Most of the speeches in this debate have, so far, been for home consumption. There has been no sharp passage.

TENTH DAY.
The Senate did nothing but to fix the personnel of the standing committees by adopting the program before arranged by a committee of republicans. Adjournment was made until Monday.

This was the closing day of the general debate on the financial bill in the house of representatives, but that fact failed to arouse more than languid interest in the proceedings, there being less than fifty members present at once. During the debate there arose an irregular passage of words over the Kentucky election.

ELEVENTH DAY.
Almost every seat in the hall was occupied when the house convened. The vote upon the currency bill, which was to be taken immediately after the reading of the journal, was responsible for the full attendance. Neither a motion to recommend nor an offer of amendment was in order by the terms of the special rule under which the house was operating.

The roll call was followed with great interest. There was demonstration when the democrats who broke away from the majority of their party voted in the affirmative. The clerk called the names of the democrats who declined to respond twice on each roll call. Every republican voted for the bill.

When the speaker announced the passage of the bill by a vote of 190 to 150 the republicans cheered. The speaker then sprang a big surprise on the house by announcing the committee.

PROFITS OF PRODUCTS

Go Up While Security Holders Suffer Loss.

New York, Dec. 18.—Never has production been greater, the number of hands employed larger, the wages distributed higher, or the purchasing power, based upon earnings, greater than at this time and never have conditions of trade or returns of earnings and traffic given certainty of greater business for transporters. Yet, as the earnings of the railway and manufacturing companies mount upward, their stocks decline as if it were disastrous for a road to double its earnings and ruinous for a mill to realize unprecedented profits. Inflated capitalization has of course done much harm, and speculative excitement has counted profits in many cases, long before they were earned. Money markets here and abroad have been strained by British reverses in South Africa, and wherever they were overloaded have been pushed to quick and disastrous, instead of gradual, liquidation. The result is that while the industries and transporting companies realize great profits, the speculative holders of their stocks realize severe losses.

Belligerents May Buy Anything.

New York, Dec. 19.—The shipments of arms and ammunition from this city to South Africa for use by British forces against the Boers caused the consul of the Free Orange State, to file a protest with Secretary of State Hay. Pierce received a note from Mr. Hay declaring that the department of state could not take any action in the premises. In case of war belligerents have the right to purchase any kind of goods in a neutral country, subject to confiscation after shipment.

New Mexico "Wants In."

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Governor M. A. Otero of New Mexico, and Solomon Luna, Republican national committee man from that territory, were at the Great Northern en route to Washington. Both say an effort will be made to bring about the admission of New Mexico during the present session of congress and both are hopeful it will be accomplished.

Leland Quotes The Constitution.

Washington, Dec. 18.—At the meeting of the republican national committee Mr. Leland, of Kansas, offered a resolution, quoting the provisions of the United States regarding representation of the states in congress; followed by:

Resolved, That the Republican national committee respectfully petitions congress to reduce the representation in the house of representatives of the United States in any state which has in force laws "denying to any of the male inhabitants," or "in any way abridging" the right to vote, as provided in said section of the constitution.

The chances are favorable that the committee will adopt the resolution.

Anti-Trust Conference Called.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The executive committee in charge of arrangements for the proposed anti-trust conference has issued an address calling the conference to meet in Chicago on the anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1900.

Buying Wool Far Ahead.

Seattle Wn., Dec. 19.—For weeks past representatives of eastern wool firms principally from Boston have been canvassing the wool growing sections of the state in an effort to buy up next year's clip. Advances have been offered at a full price when delivered next summer of from 17 to 20 cents per pound. The cause of this action is that heavy orders have been received for delivery next fall, and to make sure of a supply, all the crops possible are now being secured.

BULLER PLAYS SECOND PART

Baron Roberts Given Chief Command in South Africa.

NATAL AND CAPE COLONY.

London, Dec. 19.—Baron Roberts, of Kandahar and Waterford, commander of the forces in Ireland, has been appointed to the chief command in South Africa, with General Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum, as his chief of staff.

"Black week," as last week is now universally called, has evidently aroused the government and the war office to a full sense of their responsibility and of the magnitude of the task before them. The papers unanimously applaud this awakening, despite the fact that they recognize that the heroic measures now decided upon savor rather of weakness than of strength.

Rumor has it that the question of expense has really been at the bottom of the half-hearted measures hitherto adopted, and it is not unlikely that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, and other members of the cabinet, will resign.

It was high time that something very energetic was done. The British losses, in killed, wounded, prisoners and missing throughout the campaign now reach the enormous total of 7,630.

As a result of the British reverses the whole country northward in Natal is in rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in Basutoland, are said to be much disturbed and losing heart respecting the strength of the British. Secret meetings of Boer sympathizers continue to be held in various parts of Cape Colony, and the attitude of the Dutch farmers is truculent.

Arrangements are being made, and will shortly be announced, for the employment in South Africa of a strong contingent of carefully selected volunteers. The patriotic offers which are being received from the colonies will, as far as possible, be accepted, preference being given to offers of mounted contingents.

Special Session In Texas.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 15.—It has been decided that the Texas legislature should be convened in special session next month for the consideration of a taxation bill that will revolutionize the present taxation system. The exact date has not been settled. For three months the state tax commission, created by the last legislature, has been preparing a bill which remodels all taxation laws of the state, and this bill is the one the special session will be called to act on.

Resolution of American Federation.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 18.—A resolution recommending members of labor bodies to use their electorate ballots independently of the predominating political parties was adopted by the American Federation of Labor, after first eliminating a declaration of suspicion against labor men who might advocate the interests of the present political parties. A provision for submitting the question to a referendum vote of all the affiliated organizations was also stricken out.

Masons at Mt. Vernon.

Washington, Dec. 16.—On Thursday Mt. Vernon was the scene of the most unique and impressive ceremony in its rich and picturesque history. Masons of high degree from all over the United States and Canada met at the tomb of Washington in services commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the death of the greatest American. President McKinley delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of the first president.

Three Territory Convicts Escape.

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 16.—Three convicts in the federal prison have escaped. They are J. F. Birchschield, sent up from Ardmore, I. T., for larceny; J. E. Watson, from Atoka, I. T., for larceny; and Jack Bowleg, from Vinita, I. T. The men had carefully planned their escape, having sawed a hole in a closet in the hospital department. From this they descended to the wall, and by means of a ladder reached the ground.

Republican National Convention.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The Republican national convention will convene at Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 19, next. The place and date were decided upon by the national Republican committee after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected, St. Louis and New York. The meeting of the committee was presided over by Senator Hanna, the chairman. Forty-three of the 45 states and each of the 6 territories were represented.

Government Is Bargaining.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The administration is about to make a systematic attempt to secure, by combination, reduction in the price of typewriting machines. Secretary Long has addressed a letter to the other members of the cabinet inviting them to send their chief clerks to a conference with the object of combining their orders for the entire year in the effort to secure low prices for high grade machines. The United States government calls for 10,000 typewriters each year.

THE WHEAT CROP.

Figures On Present Crop And Next Year's Crop.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The statistician of the department of agriculture reports the wheat crop of the United States for 1899 at 547,300,000 bushels, 12.3 bushels per acre. The production of winter wheat is placed at 291,700,000 bushels and that of spring wheat at 255,500,000 bushels. Every important wheat growing state has been visited by special agents of the department and the changes in the acreage are the result of their investigations.

The newly seeded area of winter wheat is estimated at 30,150,000 acres, which is about 200,000 acres greater than that sown in the fall of 1898. The sowing of wheat is still going on in California and some of the southern states and the foregoing estimate is subject to correction. The average condition is 97.1.

SANTA FE EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS

Thirty Thousand Of Them May Have Pensions If They Will.

Topeka, Dec. 18.—The thirty odd thousand employees of the Santa Fe system lines can have a mutual insurance organization with a pension system combined if they want it. President E. P. Ripley, while in this city, stated that he was heartily in favor of a mutual insurance organization and a pension system, and declared that the company stood ready to do its share toward such an end.

"If the employees want mutual insurance which will develop a pension fund they can have it," said Mr. Ripley. "Such a condition of affairs is desirable, and the company stands ready to do its part. Of course the men will have to manifest a desire for mutual insurance and pensions before the management will do anything toward putting such a plan into effect. But the manifestation of such a desire on the part of the employees will be all that will be necessary."

"I want every man in the employ of the Santa Fe to feel that his success depends entirely on his individual efforts. I am a thorough believer in civil service in railroad promotions, and in time I hope to see understudies for every position in every department of the system. I want every man on the road to feel that he has something to work for, and intend to aid this individual belief by continuing to promote men from the ranks as far as possible instead of going outside for help. It is a benefit to a company to do this because it makes the men more particular and ambitious in their work."

Death of Ingalls' Daughter.

Atchison, Kan., Dec. 19.—Mrs. R. S. Shick, daughter of ex-United States Senator John J. Ingalls, died suddenly at her home at Reading, Pa. Mrs. Shick was the second daughter of Mr. Ingalls. She was in an Episcopal deaconess school when she met Mr. Shick, a manufacturer of Reading, to whom she was married April last. She has been in poor health lately. Senator Ingalls left New Mexico for Arizona about the time of his daughter's death and may not be able to attend the funeral.

Iowa Bankers Raising Rates.

Des Moines Ia., Dec. 19.—Iowa bankers and financial concerns are raising the rates on farm loans and where 5 and 5½ per cent was accepted until recently, 6 and 7 is now demanded and secured. Bankers report that the demand for money is fully equal to the supply, for the first time in two years. They attribute it to the tightness of the Eastern money market and say the East is drawing a great deal of cash out of Iowa.

Thousand Recruits To Manila.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The war department has arranged to send about 1,000 recruits to Manila to fill the regiments which are running short on account of death, disease and discharge. The steamship Sumner is being transformed into a troop ship at Norfolk and will be used for transportation of these recruits who are now being congregated at Fort Slocum, N. Y.

Some Interesting House Measures.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Among the house measures introduced are these: By Mr. Kitchin, North Carolina, reducing the tax on snuff and tobacco from 12 to 2 cents per pound, and compelling telegraph companies to pay the revenue stamp tax on dispatches; by Mr. Wilson, of Arizona, to give two months extra pay to those serving in the war with Spain; by Mr. Jones, of Washington, to extend the homestead law to the Philippines so that soldiers serving in the wars with Spain or the Philippines shall have the benefit of homestead settlement in the Philippines.

Spanish Prisoners Sent Home.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Under the terms of the treaty of peace with Spain, the United States agreed to send home all the soldiers of the Spanish army held by the insurgents in the Philippines. Congress made an appropriation of \$1,500,000 to carry out that purpose. The recent operations of Gen. Otis resulted in the release of about 4,000 of them, and instructions have been cabled to him to contract for the return of these soldiers to Spain. There is \$650,000 available.

GENERAL BULLER DEFEATED.

Worst Since the Indian Mutiny—News Followed Reported Victory.

LADYSMITH LIKELY TO FALL.

London, Dec. 18.—Buller to Lansdowne: I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart. The losses in General Hart's brigade are, I fear, very heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. The Fourteenth and Sixty-ninth field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley.

The Times says: "Since the days of the Indian Mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anxious a situation. Plainly, General Buller's advance is paralyzed for the moment, as Lord Methuen's and Lord Gatacre's."

The depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idolized commander is all the greater as during the preceding forty-eight hours there had been reports of the relief of Ladysmith. The war office allowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account. The latest dispatches indicate the continued bombardment of Ladysmith, whose position is now perilous.

What to Do With Them.

Washington, Dec. 19.—General Otis now has in custody many important persons who were connected with the so-called Filipino government but no decision as to their future disposition has been reached by the president.

A member of the cabinet said the time had not yet come when the fate of these men could be determined. It is believed a humane and considerate policy will lead other Filipinos to surrender. Any Filipino caught directly in unprovoked murder, or looting will be summarily dealt with.

Aguinaldo's Tactics.

Manila, Dec. 19.—General Smith, at Negros, reports that a number of the inhabitants of four coast towns entered the mountains, believing the statements of Panay and Luzon agents, that the Americans had been overwhelmingly defeated in those islands, that Aguinaldo was about to dictate terms of peace, and the American Congress to confer independence, when the established civil government of the island would be overthrown. They were also told that all Negros were about to arise and drive out the Americans. No depredations were committed, and no consequences of importance apprehended.

Advance To Steel Workers.

Pittsburg, Dec. 19.—A general advance of 10 per cent to the 1,000 employees of the Bessemer steel department has been granted by the Jones & Laughlins Iron and Steel company to take effect on the first of January. A similar advance in all departments of the big plant is practically assured when the contracts for next year are signed. This will affect 5,000 men.

Currency Bill Passed.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The currency bill passed the house by a vote of 190 to 150. The following Democrats voted for the bill: Clayton (N. Y.); Denny (Md.); Briggs (N. Y.); Fitzgerald (N. Y.); Ruppert (N. Y.); Scudder (N. Y.); Thayer (Mass.); Wilson (N. Y.).

A Judge With Big Head.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 18.—Judge Scott issued citations against ex-Judge Hopewell, his predecessor on the bench, and several others connected with the defense in the Dodd habeas corpus case, to appear and show cause why they should not be adjudged guilty of contempt. Including the 3 clergymen who were adjudged guilty, but who have moved for a rehearing, there are 9 persons for whom citations have been issued from this court on contempt charges, growing out of various cases before him.

The Hillman Case Not Closed.

Topeka, Dec. 15.—Attorney George Barker, of Lawrence, one of the attorneys for the insurance companies in the celebrated Hillman case, declared that the companies had no intention of dropping the fight. "I am here now to hurry the stenographer up on the bill of exceptions," said he. "We will take an appeal at the earliest possible moment. The insurance companies will fight this case, brought to collect a fraudulent claim, to the last ditch."

Sale Spectacles' Yearlings.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—Forty yearlings from the stock farm of A. B. Sprekles have been sold at auction bringing good prices. Matt Storm secured the black colt Cambaceres, a son of Imp. Idolum and Imp. Candid for \$1,300. Candid is the mare that won the four-mile track race at the Ingleside track. W. B. Jennings paid \$1,000 for Beelzebub, a slashing looking colt by Imp. Crighton out of Liza Rock by Imp. Loyalist. Both of these colts are of Australian breeding.

COMPLETE MARKET REPORTS.

Kansas City.
CATTLE—Choice to heavy... 3 10 5 10
HOGS—Choice to heavy... 3 10 5 10
SHEEP—Pair to choice... 2 10 5 10
WHEAT—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
CORN—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
OATS—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
HAY—Choice timothy... 1 10 5 10
BUTTER... 25 10 5 10
EGGS... 25 10 5 10

Chicago.
WHEAT—No. 1 red... 67 10 5 10
CORN—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
OATS—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
EGGS—Choice... 25 10 5 10
St. Louis.
WHEAT—No. 1 red... 67 10 5 10
CORN—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
OATS—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
RYE—No. 2... 2 10 5 10
New York.
Cotton.
Futures, opened easy.
December... 67 10 5 10
January... 7 10 5 10
February... 7 10 5 10
March... 7 10 5 10
April... 7 10 5 10
May... 7 10 5 10
June... 7 10 5 10
July... 7 10 5 10
August... 7 10 5 10
September... 7 10 5 10
October... 7 10 5 10

Galveston.
Wheat.
Open. High. Low. Close. Close.
May... 70 71 69 71 71
July... 70 71 69 71 71
CORN... 33 34 33 34 34
OATS... 24 25 24 25 25
Wheat: May... 71 72 71 72 72
Corn: May... 34 35 34 35 35

Live Stock.
HOGS... 4 10 5 10
CATTLE—Steers... 3 10 5 10
COWS... 3 10 5 10
BULLS... 3 10 5 10
STOCK COWS... 3 10 5 10
COWS AND HEIFERS... 3 10 5 10

THE LATEST NEWS IN BRIEF.
The colored teachers of Oklahoma have a territorial association.
The London metal market is flat. Tin has collapsed and copper is lower.
A Georgia railway orders that employees must stop using cigarettes or be discharged.
Senator Baker will act as chairman of the civil service committee, and be a member of the Indian committee.
Buller's reverse caused a slump in the London stock market; consols took the largest drop than in any day in history.
The navy department wants 5,000 recruits immediately to prepare for service on the new battleships and cruisers being constructed.
The house adopted a resolution for a holiday recess from Wednesday, December 20, to Wednesday, January 3, and the senate concurred.
The statistician of the agricultural department reports 8,900,000 bales as the probable cotton production of the United States for 1899-1900.
The British government has accepted the offer of more men from Australia; suggesting that the men should be mounted and good shots.
Fifteen hundred emigrants from the Canary islands have arrived in Havana making a total of 7,000 who have arrived thus far during December.
Mr. Curtis of Kansas, has introduced bills to reimburse Leavenworth and Atchison for money expended for paving around their public buildings.
Representative Sulzer, of New York, has introduced a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists in South Africa, and according belligerent rights to the Transvaal government.
Senator Harris has introduced a bill authorizing the pensioning of persons who have served in the army or navy of the Confederate states of America and who afterwards served in the army or navy of the United States and honorably discharged.
There is a rumor that President McKinley hesitates to place the name of a woman on the Paris commission, on the ground of legality.
W. H. Booth, who swindled the exchange National bank at Atchison out of several hundred dollars recently by claiming to be a member of an Arkansas lumber firm, has been sentenced to four years imprisonment.
A burglar at Pittsburg, Pa., took from a show window suits of clothes with \$5 and \$10 bills pinned on them to show the price; in all about \$300.
For several months expert accountants have been at work on the books of county officials and made a report, showing shortages in the office of County clerk Nash, of \$3,393.83, and Circuit clerk Chesnut, of \$3,902.10 at St. Joseph, Mo.
Mr. Bowersock, of Kansas, has introduced the following pension bills: Honorable discharge for Jesse Dots, pension to Florence E. Wilbur, Emmet Gillooly, Mary McLaughlin, William H. Desler, A. M. Temple, Joseph Fippe, and for the relief of the University of Kansas.
Very Rev. Dr. James G. Callahan, vicar general of the diocese of Little Rock, Ark., is dead at St. Vincent's hospital, New York, aged 66 years.
The Trans-Mississippi Wholesale Grocers' association is trying to develop some means of heading off the further encroachments of the tobacco trust.
Representative Curtis has introduced bills applying the general pension law to the state militia and providing none but ex-soldiers shall be eligible as pension agencies, except stenographers and typewriters.